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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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NEEDLESS TRAGEDY

Expert team's audit reveals over 70% of maternal deaths from April to Dec 2024 were preventable with better medical care and systemic reforms

PAGE 2

WOMAN, INTERRUPTED

Women trapped into sex trade after being lured through false promises of glamour, steady jobs rescued in trafficking crackdown

PAGE 3

Climate-change induced heatwave puts Bengaluru at moderate health risks, reveals CSTEP study; poor green cover, high population density main drivers of risk

THE HEAT IS ON

City lacks adequate medical infra to tackle issue

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru faces 'moderate' health risks due to climate-change induced heatwave in the future, researchers from the Centre for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP) have highlighted.

A heatwave vulnerability index and health risk analysis of all districts in Karnataka shows that both Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts fall under the 'moderate risk' class.

Poor green cover, high population density, and high number of people with disabilities are the main drivers exposing the city to the risk, CSTEP has underlined.

Researchers say that although Bengaluru has a lower chance of experiencing heatwave events than districts in North interior Karnataka, the density of vulnerable populations with pre-existing health conditions intensifies the overall susceptibility to heat-related illnesses.

Vulnerable populations

"This is best described by the key drivers of heat-related health risks in the city, such as a high population density, a significant proportion of people with disabilities, and high prevalence of chronic health

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

File photo of protesters at Freedom Park trying to beat the heat

"As the Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change (2024–2025) also highlights, there is a need to update the Heat Health Action Plan, enhance hospital preparedness, strengthen surveillance, and conduct capacity-building initiatives for different stakeholders

— Vidhatri Thakkar, analyst, CSTEP

One drink too many

Shops sell alcohol illegally, facilitate drinking sessions on the footpath creating unease in residential area

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Chikka Bommasandra and nearby areas are facing a drinking problem. It is a store that sells liquor and several illegal petty shops on the footpath that too sell alcohol that has created a nuisance for them.

With drunk men occupying parts of the footpath, women find it difficult to step out after sun down.

The residents BM spoke to alleged that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials have not done anything to address this problem though they are running pillar to post seeking a solution. "We wrote a letter to the BBMP Health Officer on July 11, 2024 seeking action against illegal petty shops. The Health Officer issued an acknowledgement but failed to evict or act tough against the shops selling liquor illegally," said Samad, a resident of Chikka Bommasandra.

Samad demanded that the Excise officials initiate penal action against the MRP outlet for providing the drunk groups

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Spotlight stories

Arena Theatre Productions is presenting a theatrical adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's best selling novel 'Kite Runner'. **Where: Good Shepherd Auditorium, Shanthala Nagar; When: April 5, 3 pm and 7 pm**

02 Auditory wellness

To mark 20 years of excellence, Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing is offering a free assessment camp for vertigo and tinnitus. **Where: Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, Hebbal; When: April 3 to 10**

03 Meet and greet

Phoenix Mall of Asia is hosting a meet and greet with Doraemon, the beloved Japanese manga character, offering a unique chance for young fans to take part in exciting activities. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia – Bangalore North; When: April 5 and 6, 2 pm and 8 pm**

04 Bollywood experience

AGP World is bringing a musical comedy 'Blame It On Bollywood' in collaboration with Yash Raj Films, blending humor, drama, and music into a high-energy theatrical experience. **W Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: April 5, 7.30 pm**

05 Musical evening

Windmills is presenting a performance by Andorra, the critically acclaimed Danish indie jazz ensemble, renowned for their fusion of Nordic jazz influences. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: April 4 and 5, 9.30 pm**

06 Make a change

IIIT-Bangalore in partnership with Akshaya Patra Foundation, is organising Miles4Meals 2025, a marathon aimed at providing nutritious mid-day meals for underprivileged children. **Where: IIIT-Bangalore Campus, Hosur Road; When: April 6**

Audit reveals 70% maternal deaths were preventable

Experts highlight key measures for prevention like improving healthcare infrastructure, ensuring hospital stays post-delivery, and coordinating birth plans for deliveries at equipped facilities

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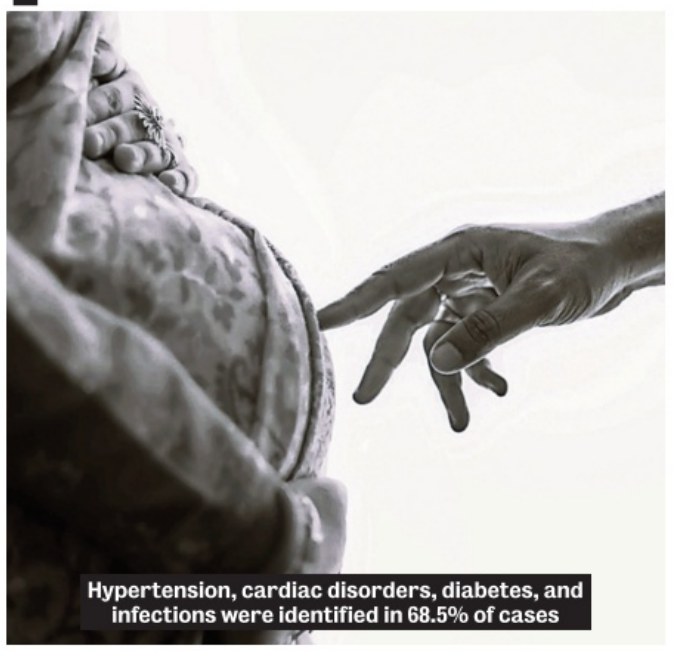

Hypertension, cardiac disorders, diabetes, and infections were identified in 68.5% of cases

As per a recent audit, over 70% of maternal deaths were preventable with better medical care and systemic reforms. A sharp rise in deaths in November 2024 led the state government to launch an investigation by a technical expert team. Led by the Health and Family Welfare Director, the team reviewed all maternal deaths from April to December 2024, across both public and private healthcare facilities to pinpoint systemic failures.

The audit process involved a thorough examination of medical records, as well as oral submissions from healthcare professionals who attended to the deceased pregnant women. The investigation covered maternal deaths recorded in government and private hospitals, medical college institutions, and even cases that occurred during transit or at home. Eighteen maternal deaths were linked to contaminated ringer lactate, while negligence was found in at least ten cases. Half of the deceased mothers were aged 19–25, 6% were over 35, and 72% were in their first or second pregnancies. Hypertension, cardiac disorders, diabetes, and infections were identified in 68.5% of cases.

The audit found that a majority (65%) of maternal deaths took place in government hospitals, while 22% occurred in private hospitals, 10% during transit, and 2% at home. The leading medical causes of maternal mortality were hypertensive disorders, hemorrhage, and sepsis. Surgical interventions were also a major factor, with 63% of the deceased mothers having undergone caesarean sections, compared to 37% who had normal deliveries. A district-wise breakdown of the 18 deaths linked to ringer lactate contamination revealed five cases in Ballari, four each in Raichur and Bengaluru Urban, three in Uttara Kannada, and one each in Yadgiri and Belagavi.

Policy recommendations

In response to the findings, the committee proposed 27 recommendations to enhance maternal healthcare, covering antenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care. Key measures include strengthening healthcare infrastructure with essential equipment, drugs, and improved blood storage units. They also suggested enforcing mandatory hospital stays of three days for normal deliveries and seven days for caesarean sections, along with conducting post-mortem examinations in unclear maternal deaths, and implementing comprehensive birth planning by coordinating with families to ensure delivery at well-equipped facilities.

Causes of maternal deaths

According to the report, a total of 464 maternal deaths were recorded, with 65% in public hospitals, 22% in private facilities, 10% during transit, and 2% at home. While 18% occurred during pregnancy, 82% happened within 42 days postpartum. Pre-existing conditions like hypertension, diabetes, infections, or anaemia were present in 69% of cases, but 31% had no known risk factors. Leading causes included hypertensive disorders (33%), hemorrhage (27%), sepsis (9%), cardiac complications (4%), infections (4%), endotoxin-related issues (4%), amniotic fluid embolism (4%), pulmonary embolism (3%), multi-organ dysfunction syndrome (1%), and abortions (1%).

Guidelines for preventable causes

With nearly 70% of maternal deaths deemed preventable, the committee recommended strict adherence to labour induction guidelines, improved referral protocols, optimised caesarean rates, and strengthened healthcare infrastructure with essential blood supply and emergency equipment. Emphasis was laid on stabilising patients before transfers, enhancing antenatal care through routine monitoring, and tracking high-risk pregnancies from the first trimester. The report also suggested strengthening coordination between primary healthcare providers and obstetricians for birth planning and emergencies.

Samskruthi–2025 kicks off with grand inauguration at BMS College

Samskruthi–2025, the tenth edition of the prestigious intercollegiate fest jointly hosted by BMS College of Commerce and Management and BMS Evening College of Arts and Commerce, commenced on Friday with a grand and vibrant inauguration. Spanning three days, the fest is set to host a range of management and cultural events designed to provide a platform for creativity, expression, and student engagement.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by the presence of Smt Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar as the Chief Guest. The event was chaired by Sri Aviram Sharma, Chairman, BMS College of Commerce and Management and Wg Cdr RA Raghavan, Director, BMS Educational Trust.

Dr Pankaj Choudhary, Principal of BMS, extended a warm welcome and expressed his gratitude to the dignitaries and students.

The first day witnessed remarkable student performances that celebrated the life and legacy of the late Dr Puneeth Rajkumar. **— BMB**

Collaborative effort for holistic academic growth

Eleming Duarte, Paraguayan Ambassador to India, and Karthik Tallam, Honorary Consul of Cambodia, visited educational institutions in Bengaluru on Friday to explore educational opportunities and advance multinational collaborations at the invitation of Prof BR Supreeth, Syndicate Member (Governor Nominee) of Bengaluru City University (BCU). As part of his itinerary, the Ambassador visited Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), Bengaluru City University and Oxford School, Nagarabhavi.

During the visit, BCU Vice-Chancellor Prof Lingaraj Gandhi emphasized the significance of international academic partnerships, and highlighted Bengaluru's reputation as a knowledge hub, renowned for housing several premier institutions of national and international repute.

(Left) Prof BR Supreeth (left) with the Ambassador; (Right) The Ambassador and the Honorary Consul with BCU Vice-Chancellor and members during the visit

The visit falls under Prof BR Supreeth's initiative to connect Karnataka's universities with global diplomats as a groundbreaking step in transforming Bengaluru into an international education hub, aiming at holistic academic and research growth.

Ambassador Duarte expressed optimism about the future of India-Paraguay ties, highlighting the shared opportunities in academia, technology, and sustainability. He emphasized that Paraguay is keen to welcome Indian students, researchers, and businesses.

The visit marks the beginning of a new era of collaboration between India and Paraguay, setting the stage for transformative academic and research partnerships that will benefit students, researchers, and industries in both nations. **— BMB**

Women trapped in sex trade rescued, eight arrested

Several individuals, including a minor, were freed from trafficking racket that lured victims with promises of glamour and steady jobs; network used layered intermediaries

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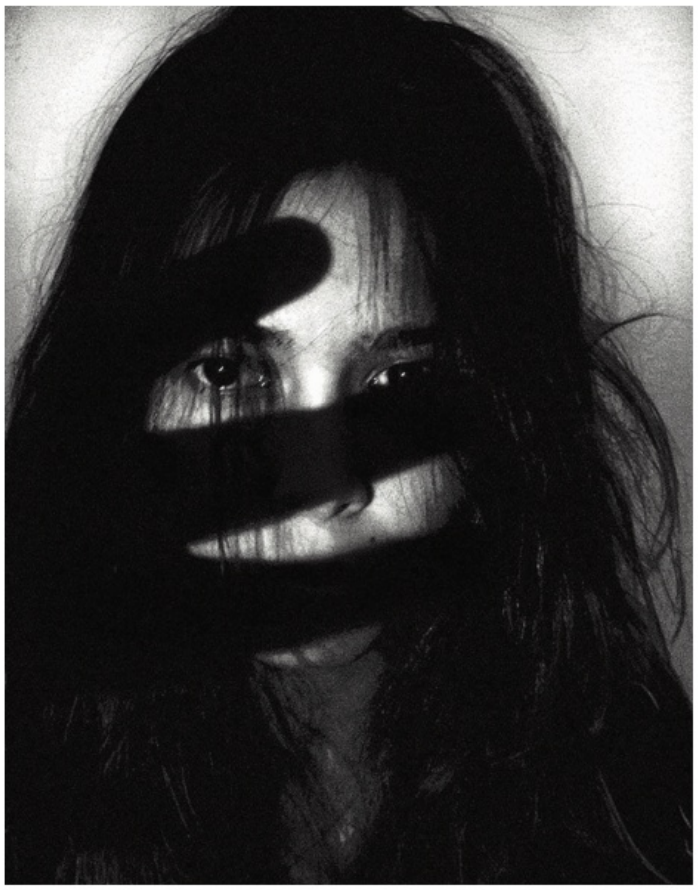
In a crackdown on human trafficking, Central Crime Branch (CCB) police last week arrested eight individuals accused of luring young women into prostitution. The arrested suspects—Wasim, Manohar, Seena, Lokesh Gowda, Lokesh, Vijay, Prasad, and Suresh—had been operating across various parts of the city, including Nagarabhavi, Madiwala, and Bommanahalli. During the operation, the police rescued eight women, including a minor, who had been trapped in the illicit trade.

Investigations have revealed that the accused targeted women from outside Karnataka, convincing them with fake promises of glamorous jobs before coercing them into sex work. The racket extended beyond just forced prostitution; the women were reportedly made to dance in bars.

A senior police official explained that the illegal activities were not being conducted under the guise of a modelling agency. Instead, the individuals involved were running a full-fledged prostitution racket. They actively reached out to potential clients, facilitated communication between them and the women involved, and arranged locations for the transactions. However, to evade direct detection, they implemented multiple layers of intermediaries in the process, ensuring there was no immediate or obvious link between the key players and the illicit operations.

Among the rescued girls are two girls from Mandya and Mysore, while a few girls from Punjab, Delhi, Kolkata and Uttar Pradesh, other states have been rescued. The accused are still being interrogated, and some of the girls are likely to be rescued.



The operation wasn't a fake modelling agency but a full-fledged prostitution racket, said an official

Senior police official said well-coordinated operation tackled new-age challenges, as traffickers now avoid fixed locations and use advanced technology to conceal their networks across multiple establishments

Addressing the challenges faced during the investigation, a senior police official stated that the operation was a well-coordinated and planned effort. The official further explained that traditional methods of conducting such illegal activities, such as operating from a fixed location or concealing operations within a single establishment, have evolved significantly with advancements in technology.

"In today's scenario, the individuals managing and overseeing the operations are often located in entirely different places from those interacting with customers. The biggest challenge for law enforcement was establishing connections between these separate entities. The people involved maintain the illusion that they are unconnected, but once you dig deeper, the links become evident," the official said.

The investigation uncovered an organised cartel that sources women from various locations, initially presenting them with opportunities in the entertainment industry, such as working in studios, advertisements, television series, or movies. The promise of a glamorous career lures them in, but when they struggle to find stable work, they are gradually introduced to the illicit trade.

Each transaction involved a commission-based system, with earnings distributed based on a percentage of the total deal amount. According to officials, this operation had been running for a long time, with those involved executing it with a level of sophistication that indicated extensive planning and professional experience.

A case registered under CCB immoral trafficking activities serves as a wake-up call about the dark undercurrents of exploitation in Bengaluru. As the city continues to grow, so do the dangers lurking behind its glimmering opportunities.

BJP worker found dead in office

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BJP worker Vinay Somaiah was found dead in his office in Nagawara on Friday, reportedly having died by suicide. A note recovered from the scene is said to outline the circumstances leading to his death and names a member of the Congress party.

Police officials are currently investigating the matter based on the contents of the note, and the body has been sent to a local hospital for a postmortem.
According to the preliminary findings, Vinay Somaiah, also known as Vinay KS, was an operations manager at a private company and an active social figure, deeply involved with his hometown, Kodagu.

The complaint filed in connection with his death states that Vinay had been under immense pressure following a series of legal troubles. In February 2025, he informed his brother that an FIR had been registered against him by Congress leader Thenneer Maina and others for being the administrator of the WhatsApp group "Kodagina Samasyegalu mathu Parihara." He later appealed the FIR in the High Court. However, Vinay alleged that he continued to face harassment from Thenneer Maina and his associates.
According to his family, as stated in the complaint, despite the FIR being filed, the police continued gathering information from Vinay KS's family and friends while also threatening to add his name to the rowdy list.

According to sources, the suicide note, which spans over a thousand words, reportedly blames several Congress leaders and a series of political developments for his distress. Vinay had been arrested previously in Madikeri following a complaint by Thenneer Maina, accusing him of posting a WhatsApp message mocking the MLA. This legal entanglement affected him, as evident in his final messages.

Shortly before his death, Vinay posted on social media, announcing his intent to end his life. His body was later discovered at his Nagawara office and subsequently shifted to Ambedkar Hospital. The police have launched a probe into the case, and further action will be taken.

Is Yellow Line on track for June opening?

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Namma Metro's much-awaited Yellow Line, which will connect the tech hub of Electronic City, has faced prolonged delays. However, authorities now indicate that the line could finally become operational by the end of June or early July.

A senior BMRCL official stated, "We have received two trains and are currently undergoing regulatory approvals, including oscillation trials and signalling tests. Once these are completed, we will seek CMRS (Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety) approval, which we expect by the end of April. Additionally, we anticipate receiving the third train by April-end, and our team is heading to Kolkata for follow-ups. There were some challenges in outfitting, particularly with material shipping, requiring certain components to be airlifted. If the outfitting is completed as planned, we will have three trains ready, and subject to regulatory approvals, commercial operations could commence by June-end or July for the 19.15 km Yellow Line stretch from RV Road to Bommasandra."

The prototype trains for both corridors have been built by CRRC Nanjing Puzhen Co, Ltd, China, as part of a 1,578 crore contract signed in 2019 to supply 216 coaches (36 trains) to BMRCL. Of these, 15 trains will be deployed on the Yellow Line, while the remaining 21 trains will serve the Purple and Green Lines. Apart from the two prototype trains, the rest of the fleet is being manufactured in India by CRRC's local partner, Titagarh Rail Systems Limited, in West Bengal.

19 km Yellow Line with 16 stations aims to ease traffic

The Yellow Line trains are equipped with Communication-Based Train Control (CBTC) technology, enabling driverless operations, while the Purple and Green Line trains will continue with the Distance-To-Go (DTG) system, which requires locomotive pilots. On February 24, 2025, CMRS AM Choudhary and his team conducted a statutory safety inspection of the CRRC-supplied driverless trains for the Yellow Line, evaluating components such as undercarriages, circuit boards, brakes, and suspension systems. This mandatory assessment is a critical step before obtaining final approval from the Ministry of Railways for the new rolling stock.

Once the Railway Board grants approval and the signalling tests are completed, CMRS will conduct a final inspection of the entire R5 corridor. The Yellow Line, spanning approximately 19 km with 16 stations, is expected to decongest Bengaluru's traffic and enhance urban connectivity. The introduction of driverless technology, a first for Bengaluru Metro, will mark the transition to CBTC (Communication-Based Train Control) signalling, reducing the train frequency from the current two-and-a-half minutes to just 90 seconds (only after all the train sets are put into service).

A BMRCL official said, "While the new trains are designed for autonomous operations, BMRCL plans to initially deploy loco pilots to supervise operations before transitioning to a fully driverless metro network. The rollout of driverless trains on the Yellow Line is expected later this year, with more such trains likely to be added to BMRCL's fleet soon."

North Bengaluru emerges as a real estate hotspot

North Bengaluru has rapidly emerged as a preferred destination for property buyers, driven by infrastructural developments, improved connectivity, and increasing commercial activities. The area, once considered on the outskirts, is now a thriving hub for residential and commercial real estate, making it an attractive investment destination for homebuyers and investors alike.

With the metro connectivity extending towards the airport, North Bengaluru is set to witness exponential growth. "The improved infrastructure will not only ease traffic congestion but also boost the real estate market in this region. Moreover, the region benefits from the presence of the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) and Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway, which enhance its accessibility to neighboring states, making it a prime location for businesses and residents alike," said Prashanth Kumar, a techie.

Growing commercial and employment hubs

The emergence of IT and aerospace parks, along with industrial corridors, has fueled the demand for housing in North Bengaluru. Key projects like the KIADB Aerospace Park, Devanahalli Business Park, and Manyata Tech Park have attracted top companies, generating employment opportunities and increasing the demand for housing. "With the presence of IT giants and global corporations setting up offices in North Bengaluru, professionals working here prefer to live close to their workplaces. This is significantly driving the demand for premium and affordable housing options," said Manoj Shetty, a real estate consultant.

Availability of affordable housing

Unlike central Bengaluru, which faces land constraints and high property prices, North Bengaluru offers a mix of luxury apartments, plotted developments, and affordable housing options at competitive rates. Areas like Hebbal, Jakkur, Yelahanka, Devanahalli, and Hennur have witnessed a surge in residential projects catering to different segments of buyers. **–Prakash VL**

BM Property
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9886721857

Farming becomes the new mantra

Farming is becoming the latest trend among Bengaluru's property buyers. With rising stress levels and a growing preference for sustainable living, many urban dwellers are investing in farmland, seeking a peaceful escape from the city's chaos. Areas around Mysuru-Bannur road, Devanahalli, Kanakapura Road, Magadi Road, and Doddaballapura are witnessing a surge in demand for agricultural plots, weekend farmhouses, and managed farmland communities. Developers are also tapping into this demand by offering managed farm plots. **–BMB**

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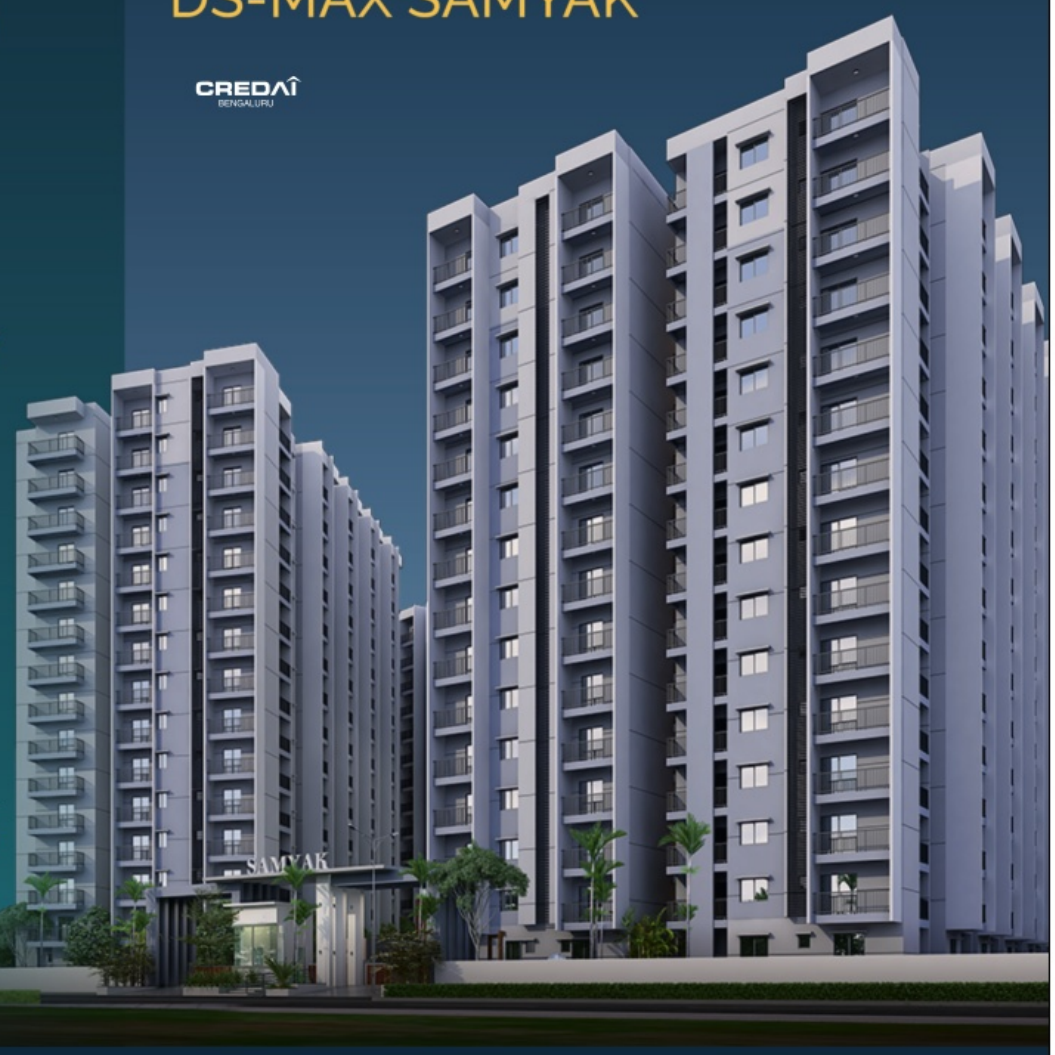

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Buzzing danger near Cubbon Park triggers safety concerns

Visitors and officials raise serious concerns over a beehive at the BSNL building near Cubbon Park entrance, urging authorities to take action

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

People entering Cubbon Park through the gate near the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) building need to be cautious. Thousands of visitors, including children, use this entrance during weekends. A large beehive has formed on the BSNL building, posing a danger not only to park visitors but also to employees at the BSNL office and Namma Metro commuters passing nearby.

People at the entrance of Cubbon Park near the BSNL building had to run for cover after being attacked by a swarm of honey bees. The bees were reportedly provoked when a few miscreants threw stones at the beehive located on the building. Security guards rushed to the spot upon receiving the alert and quickly cautioned the public to vacate the area to avoid further stings.

Bangalore Mirror
BBMP's new team to ensure humane bee relocation
Experts stress mandatory training for beehive relocation and recommend sensitisation programs to raise awareness on co-existence with bee colonies

Bangalore Mirror had reported on April 4 about BBMP's plan for humane relocation of bees

"We burnt leaves to clear honey bees from Cubbon Park. We also advised people to go away from the area to save themselves from honey bees," said Madanraj, supervisor of security guards at Cubbon Park.

Expressing concern over the honeybee menace, Ranganath N, a visitor, said that the authorities must take immediate steps to remove the beehive on the BSNL building. "What will happen to children and senior citizens if someone throws stones at the hive? Thousands of people visit Cubbon Park on weekends—it's important to ensure their safety. I appeal to the authorities to remove the beehive as soon as possible," he said.

(Right) A large beehive on the BSNL building poses a threat, prompting calls for urgent action; (Left) Cubbon Park security burns leaves to drive away bees after a swarm attacked visitors near the BSNL entrance

Demanding the BSNL and the Horticulture Department officials to ensure Cubbon Park safe for visitors, Praveen Kumar H, a visitor, wants more security guards at the entrance near the BSNL building to keep a vigil on the miscreants.

When contacted, Deputy Director of Horticulture (Cubbon Park), G Kusuma, said she has informed both BBMP authorities and BSNL officials about the need to remove the beehive. "I have received complaints about the honeybee menace. I hope the concerned authorities will take prompt action to remove the beehive," she said.

Meanwhile, BSNL Principal General Manager B Venkateswarlu has said that he has already advised the pest control services to remove the beehive. "The beehive will be removed soon," he said.

State approves revised ₹18,120-crore BBMP budget

The state government has approved the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) budget for the financial year 2025–26, but with modifications. The overall budget size has been reduced by ₹1,806.66 crore. Initially, the BBMP had proposed a budget of ₹19,927.08 crore, which was presented on March 29, 2025, and submitted for approval. However, the Urban Development Department (UDD) revised the proposal and approved a reduced budget of ₹18,120.42 crore.

The Urban Development Department (UDD) raised concerns over the BBMP's proposed budget exceeding the financial responsibility and budget management limits outlined under Section 4(2) of the BBMP (Financial Responsibility and Budget Management) Act, 2021. Consequently, the budget size was reduced and modified to better align with the city's financial capacity and revenue collection potential. The revised budget has been structured around essential needs, improved revenue efficiency, tax base expansion, and anticipated government grants. It also takes into account key factors such as World Bank assistance, the introduction of a new advertisement policy, and revenue strategies involving premium Floor Area Ratio (FAR).

Key adjustments in the budget include an increase in the discretionary fund under the Bengaluru in-charge minister from ₹135.31 crore to ₹224.69 crore. Additionally, ₹50 crore has been allocated for the construction of buildings under the Kempegowda Development Authority, while the grant for Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Company has been increased from ₹486 crore to ₹586 crore, covering projects such as polluted lake restoration, stormwater drain maintenance, and sewage treatment. Furthermore, ₹50 crore has been set aside for government outreach programs, citizen grievance redressal initiatives, and public engagement activities. Another ₹50 crore has been earmarked for advertising and promotions across newspapers, television, social media, and other platforms, while ₹25 crore has been allocated for meetings and public events. A sum of ₹10 crore has also been designated for medical relief funds.

— BMB

ESCOM launches WhatsApp helpline numbers

To ensure the swift resolution of electricity-related complaints across eight districts under BESCOM's jurisdiction, the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) has introduced 11 dedicated WhatsApp helpline numbers. While the 1912 BESCOM helpline remains operational 24/7, it experiences a surge in calls during the monsoon season, making it difficult for some customers to reach the helpline. To address this issue, BESCOM has urged consumers to send messages or complaint-related photos via WhatsApp to these new helpline numbers for quicker resolution. WhatsApp Helpline Numbers – Bengaluru Urban: South: 82778 84011, West: 82778 84012, East: 82778 84013, North: 82778 84014

— BMB

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Surveillance failure
Benson Town

CCTV cameras and road signs on 4th Main Road, Chinnappa Garden, Benson Town are non-functional, compromising safety and surveillance in the area.

Pending repairs
Horamavu

Declared for repair, 1st Cross Water Tank Road in Horamavu remains neglected after BWSSB pipeline work. An electric pole blocks the way, making it tough for seniors and children. Other roads were fixed—why not this one?

Danger zone
Kurubarahalli

Live wires hanging near Mahalakshmi Jewellers on Kurubarahalli Main Road pose a serious threat. Poor insulation and low-hanging cables endanger public safety. BESCOM must act swiftly to prevent a potential disaster.

Homebuyers alert RBI to irregularities in bank approvals

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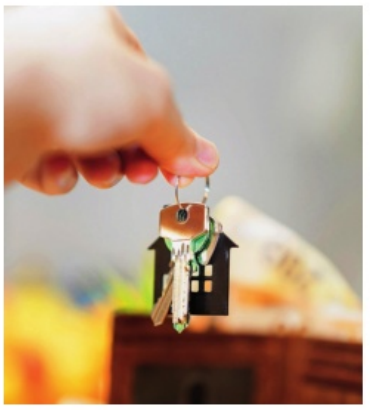
The Karnataka Home Buyers Forum (KHBF) has appealed to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to investigate complaints against nationalised and private banks and take appropriate action to protect home buyers' interests in the state.

KHBF convener Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar compiled observations on banks and submitted them to the RBI, urging it to issue suitable guidelines to safeguard homebuyers' interests.

The KHBF pointed out that some banks are not thoroughly verifying project titles and have highlighted irregularities in the approval of certain real estate projects.

"Few banks are releasing the full money to the promoters without following slab-wise payment through Ponzi schemes, and home buyers are forced to pay equal monthly installments (EMIs) without getting the possession of the flats," the KHBF note read.

Padmanabhachar said that some banks are not insisting that the promoters comply with Section 17 of RERA in ensuring the title of the project gets transferred to the registered association of allottees within 3 months of obtaining the Occupancy Certificate. "Many banks in Karnataka are not taking Certificate of Registration, Bye-law registered with the competent authority as proof of association registration, even though it is mandatory as per banking regulations. Because of these irregularities, home buyers are in trouble," he said.



KHBF: Some banks skip title checks, clear irregular projects

It is said that a few banks are sanctioning mortgage loans to promoters even after the sale deed has been executed to home buyers. "The banks are not checking the EC (Encumbrance Certificate) and are not doing physical validation before granting hundreds of crores as a mortgage loan. Many banks are not validating whether or not the Occupancy Certificate is issued by the competent authority. Banks also do not bother whether the land khata is transferred to the residents' association," he said.

Expressing a similar opinion, Ameya Usagaonkar, a home buyer, said the banks are not verifying the credentials of residents' associations during the opening of bank accounts. "Bank employees will not verify whether or not the residents' association is registered with the competent authority. The RBI is also keeping quiet on this issue as the money transaction involved by builders and residents' associations is huge," said Ameya Usagaonkar.

Forest Dept okays ropeway, activists flag eco impact

Despite no major environmental violations reported, conservationists raise red flags over biodiversity loss, water contamination, and geological instability in Nandi Hills

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The Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has permitted the diversion of 0.89 hectares of forest land for the proposed Nandi Hills ropeway project.

The approval letter, dated March 29, was issued by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, based on an inspection report filed by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chikkaballapura.

The report notes that the forest land identified for diversion falls under a general landscape classified as Eco-class IV, with a canopy density of 0.4. No trees are proposed to be cut between the towers, except for one eucalyptus tree at tower number 9. It also states that there are no National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Biosphere Reserves, Tiger Reserves, Elephant Corridors, or Wildlife Migration Corridors within a 10-kilometre radius of the proposed site.

The report further clarifies that there are no Protected/ Archaeological/ Heritage Sites/ Defence establishments located in the area, and no violations have been reported under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

The proposal has now been submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (Southern Zone), Bengaluru, for obtaining in-principle (Stage-I) approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Notably, in February this year, a public interest litigation (PIL) was filed against the project by Bengaluru-based Universal Human Rights Service Foundation in the Karnataka High Court. The court had directed the state government to respond to the PIL. The matter is scheduled for the next hearing on April 8 (Tuesday).

Nandi Hills, a biodiversity hotspot, is source of Arkavathy river, Bengaluru's lifeline

> **"The project would lead to habitat destruction and fragmentation, disrupting natural ecosystems, threatening flora and fauna**
> –CD Kiran, Human Rights Service Foundation

The ropeway project is being spearheaded by the Karnataka Tourism Department in collaboration with a private company, with an estimated cost of 93.40 crore.

Concerns have been raised by various groups opposing the project. CD Kiran, founder and president of the Universal Human Rights Service Foundation, argued that Nandi Hills has already reached its maximum footfall capacity and is increasingly threatened by human activities, including rapid urbanisation and tourism.

Apart from being a rich biodiversity hotspot, Nandi Hills is also the origin of several rivers, including the Arkavathy, considered Bengaluru's lifeline. According to Kiran, the introduction of high-end tourism infrastructure would cause irreversible damage to the ecosystem and biodiversity.

"The project would lead to habitat destruction and fragmentation, disrupting natural ecosystems, threatening native flora and fauna, degrading water sources and soil quality, and causing noise pollution and disturbance to wildlife," he said.

He further pointed out that the hill's fragile and fractured rocky terrain, coupled with the presence of underground springs, makes it unsuitable for any kind of heavy machinery. "It poses a safety concern not only to visitors but also to the overall long-term geological and structural stability of the region," he said.

City-based environmentalists echoed similar concerns, especially regarding the Arkavathy River, a key tributary of the Cauvery. They warned that the project could affect the river's essential watershed. "The Arkavathy is already under severe stress due to pollution. The additional disturbance from the ropeway infrastructure could further degrade the stretch and even contaminate the groundwater," said one environmentalist.

Bhavani Revanna can enter Mysuru

Karnataka High Court has eased the restriction placed on Bhavani Revanna, mother of former Lok Sabha MP and Janata Dal (S) leader Prajwal Revanna, allowing her to enter Mysuru and Hassan districts.

The restriction was previously established when she received anticipatory bail regarding a kidnapping case, which was connected to the rape case against her son Prajwal.

"IA is allowed. The bail condition is relaxed. The petitioner accused is permitted to enter the districts of Mysuru and Hassan. However, Petitioner (A-8) was strictly restrained from going anywhere within a 500-metre radius of the house of the victim and other witnesses," stated the Court's order.

The Court additionally instructed Bhavani not to intimidate the victim or prosecution witnesses. "State government is at liberty to move court for variance or cancellation if there is any defiance of the order," the Court stated.

Senior advocate Sandesh J Chouta, representing Bhavani, explained that the initial condition was set when charges included Section 364A IPC (kidnapping for ransom), carrying potential death or life imprisonment penalties. "This order was challenged in the SC and it came to be dismissed. For the rest of the offences for which cognizance is taken, the punishment is less than 7 years," he stated. Chouta noted that Bhavani has familial connections, including "deity in Holeinarsipura".

Court probes trans reservation

During a hearing regarding NLSIU's challenge to a single judge's directive on transgender reservation, the Karnataka High Court enquired whether the university was considering implementing reservations for transgender candidates in admissions. The university confirmed that its executive council is reviewing the matter. They clarified their neutral stance towards all groups and assured that the council, of distinguished legal experts, would reach a well-reasoned decision. Previously, the university had maintained that courts cannot mandate reservations or fee waivers.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

FIBONACCI DEFIED IN BLOOM

Our reader shares that they were recently going through "The Fabulous Fibonacci Numbers," a book they won as a prize in a mathematics quiz. According to the book, the number of petals in flowers like chrysanthemums or chameli typically follows the Fibonacci series—though rare exceptions exist. Interestingly, our reader has just discovered one of those exceptions blooming in their own back garden...

The picture was clicked by reader **ASV Amogh**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

BBMP cracks down: FIR filed over illegal road dig in Dasarahalli

The BBMP has registered an FIR against individuals responsible for illegally digging a road in RK Layout 3rd Cross Road, Shettyhalli Sub-Division, Dasarahalli Zone.

Zonal Commissioner Satish had directed officials via a WhatsApp message to take legal action against a woman who allegedly carried out the illegal road excavation on March 31, at 9:30am.

Following his directive, BBMP officials, led by Dasarahalli Zone Chief Engineer Basavaraj Kabade, conducted a site inspection. Their assessment confirmed that the owner of property number 37 had carried out the road digging without prior permission from the BBMP, resulting in damage to public infrastructure.

Acting on the findings, the Assistant Executive Engineer of Shettyhalli Sub-Division filed a complaint at Bagalgunte Police Station, leading to the registration of an FIR against those involved in the unauthorised activity.

A senior official highlighted the grave implications of such actions, saying, "Any excavation on public roads without proper approval disrupts essential infrastructure, including water pipelines, sewage lines, and underground cables. Such reckless actions not only lead to service disruptions but also pose a safety hazard for pedestrians and motorists. Roads

BBMP warns that illegal road digging poses serious risks to public safety and infrastructure, urging strict legal action to curb such violations

are built following specific engineering standards to ensure durability and stability. Unauthorised digging weakens the structure, leading to premature damage, potholes, and costly repairs."

He further stressed the importance of obtaining prior permission from the BBMP before carrying out any roadwork. "This allows for proper planning and coordination with utility service providers, ensuring minimal inconvenience to the public," he added. — BMB

Unauthorised road digging caused infrastructure damage, prompting legal action against the violation

DID YOU KNOW?

The threat of a newly discovered asteroid has risen slightly in the past few weeks, as the world's telescopes rush to track its course. But the chance of an impact is still quite slim. New calculations suggest there's a 2% chance that asteroid 2024 YR4 could strike Earth in 2032. That also means there's a 98% chance it will safely pass by. Scientists expect these odds to shift as they refine their understanding of its orbit. For now, experts say there's no need to worry. The asteroid, discovered in December by a telescope in Chile, is estimated to be between 130 and 300 feet wide. NASA and the European Space Agency will use the Webb Space Telescope to observe it again this March before it disappears from view until 2028. NASA emphasizes this is a normal part of the tracking process. "Don't panic," said Larry Denneau from the University of Hawaii. "We'll have a clear answer soon." Asteroids like these are closely watched—but rarely pose real danger. — AP

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Social media post claiming PhonePe offered cashbacks during ongoing IPL season is fake

Multiple social media users shared a post claiming that PhonePe was offering a ₹696 cashback during the Indian Premier League season. However, an investigation by the PTI Fact Check Desk found that the post was fake. PhonePe had not announced any such cashback offer, and the links in the post led to fraudulent, non-functional pages.

Claim: On March 22, a Facebook user going by the name 'Ipl-Hub' shared a post about PhonePe claiming that it is offering a cashback of Rs 696 this IPL season. The post also shared a link where the user had to register to avail of the cashback. The text in the post, which garnered 979 likes, originally in Hindi, read: "This IPL PhonePe is giving ₹696 free cashback."

Investigation: The Desk ran the viral post through the InVid tool and extracted multiple keyframes. Running one of the keyframes through Google Lens, the Desk found multiple users had shared it with similar claims. To verify the claim, the Desk checked the link to the viral post that read Get.Offer.com, which does not carry the company's name. In the next part of the investigation, after the Desk linked on the given link, it led us to a website called 'Summers Gift', which was inaccessible at the time of writing this report. The Desk then checked PhonePe's actual domain registration, which showed that the company's website was registered in 2015, through the domain registration website GoDaddy.

For further verification, we scanned all of PhonePe's social media handles to check whether they had launched any such cashback scheme, but the search did not yield any results mentioning the claim made in the viral post. Conducting a customised keyword search, the Desk came across a blog on PhonePe's official website, whose headline read: "Stay alert from Cashback frauds!" The blog mentioned that these links and social media pages are cleverly designed to resemble PhonePe's official Website and logo to trick you into believing that the offer is genuine. It added that PhonePe does not offer Cashback or rewards over phone calls or links.

"No additional action is needed from you to claim or accept Cashback. PhonePe does not offer Cashback or rewards for phone calls or links. Any URLs, social media posts or phone calls promising Cashback are misleading," the blog read. Subsequently, the Desk concluded that PhonePe had not launched any cashback offer for the ongoing IPL season.

Claim: PhonePe launches a cashback scheme for the ongoing IPL season.

Fact: The viral post is misleading, as PhonePe did not launch any cashback offer for the ongoing IPL season.

Conclusion: Several social media users shared a post in the name of PhonePe claiming that it offers a cashback of Rs 696 this IPL season. In its investigation, the Desk found that the viral post was misleading, as PhonePe did not launch any cashback offer for the ongoing IPL season. Moreover, the links shared led to now-defunct websites or more fraudulent pages. (*The story was originally published by PTInews.com (Scan QR Code) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective.*)

Cattle caught in the crossfire in rural K'taka

At least 30 cows, buffaloes have died since Jan due to illegal use of explosives in hunting, but officials not doing enough say locals

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The illegal use of explosives to hunt wild animals is causing severe harm to livestock in rural Karnataka. In the latest incident on Wednesday, a buffalo and four cows were critically injured after biting into an explosive-laced corn stalk in Bhadrayyanahalli village, Chamarajanagar. Farmers had let their cattle out to graze when the explosion occurred, leaving the animals with gruesome mouth injuries. They are now struggling to survive.

A growing threat

Over the past three months, similar incidents have been reported in multiple villages. Two cows were killed in Kundali, another on Hanur-Ajjipura Road, and one in RS Doddi, Chamarajanagar. In Heggavadipur and Heggavadi, explosives hidden in grazing fields left two cows with severe injuries. Despite this, little action has been taken. Villagers and activists say at least 30 cows and buffaloes have been injured or killed since January, yet authorities have failed to curb the practice. The continued use of explosives in fodder poses a serious threat to both wildlife and domesticated animals.

> **"Miscreants are placing explosives inside fodder bundles to target wild boars. Cows searching for fodder end up eating it, causing explosives to detonate in their mouths**

"Recently, such incidents have increased in Hanur Taluk of Chamarajanagar district, resulting in the deaths of several cows due to these explosions. The district administration must immediately form a special task force and take strict legal action against those involved in manufacturing and placing these explosives," said Goputhra Sudarshan, a volunteer at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Shivamogga.

"There is a lack of seriousness regarding this issue, and no clarity on who is responsible or how to address it. I call for the formation of a dedicated task force to investigate the cases. So far, at least 30 such incidents have occurred, and in nearly all of them, cows and buffaloes have succumbed to their injuries," said Honnuru Prakash, President, Farmers' Association, Chamarajanagar district.

Action taken

Deputy Commissioner of Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka, Shilpa Nag told BM the recent incident is deeply saddening, and rigorous action has been taken with arrests already made. "These explosives, which are handmade, are primarily used for hunting wild boars and other animals, making them extremely dangerous. To address this issue, we have taken immediate regulatory action against those involved at every level right from production and distribution to those planting these explosives," she said.

Additionally, after six meetings, they have formed dedicated teams comprising forest officials, panchayat members, veterinary officers, and the police to tackle this practice.

Blackmailers use edited videos to extort man

A case of blackmail has been registered at the Koramangala Police Station after a 68-year-old man filed a complaint against two individuals for allegedly threatening him with edited sex videos and demanding a ransom of Rs 2 crore.

According to the complaint, around 20 days ago, the main accused, Ajay Pavenahalli, contacted the victim over the phone, stating that he had an important matter to discuss. At the time, the victim was near the Davangere District Court and agreed to meet later. On the scheduled day at 1 pm, Pavenahalli and another accused, Abhi, met him at a hotel near the court and claimed that they possessed compromising videos of him.

About 10 days ago, Abhi allegedly met the man on Hadadi Road in Davangere and reiterated the existence of the videos. On March 14, some videos were sent from WhatsApp by Abhi to the victim, who realised that they were edited. He deleted the videos. The following day, Abhi called the victim, instructing him to retrieve the videos. On March 16, Abhi warned the victim not to come to Bengaluru and threatened him that Pavenahalli would intervene if the money was not paid by Sunday.

On March 17, Pavenahalli arrived in Bengaluru and met the victim at a coffee shop in Koramangala. During this meeting, he demanded Rs 2 crore to keep the videos private. Subsequently, Abhi called the victim from his mobile number, issuing further threats and warning that the videos would be released to the media if payment was not made. After negotiations, the accused settled on Rs 40 lakh and allegedly continued to threaten the victim.

Koramangala police upon investigation said, " It's a case of extortion, not a honey trap. There is no video of the man."

Man serves jail time for wife's 'murder'; she resurfaces alive in court

A court in Mysuru, taking serious note of lapses on the part of the police, has ordered the Superintendent of Police (SP) to submit a complete report before April 17 in connection with a case in which a woman, allegedly murdered by her husband in 2020, has now appeared before it—alive.

This comes even as Suresh, the husband of the woman named Mallige, had spent almost one-and-a-half years in jail on murder charges.

The case pertains to the arrest and imprisonment of Suresh, aged about 38, who had lodged a complaint in December 2020 stating that his wife Mallige had gone missing from Kushalnagar in the Kodagu district.

Subsequently, the police found the skeleton of a woman in Bettadarapura (Periyapatna taluk) and filed a charge sheet in court, alleging that the skeleton belonged to Mallige and that Suresh had murdered her. He was then jailed.

On April 1, Mallige was found in Madikeri by a friend of Suresh, who saw her with another man.

The matter was brought to the notice of the Fifth Additional District and Sessions Court, and she was subsequently produced before the court.

Taking serious note of the police's lapses, the court on Thursday directed the SP to submit a complete report on the case by April 17.

Suresh's advocate, Pandu Poojari told reporters, "Suresh, who is from a village in Kushalnagar, had lodged a complaint in 2020 at the Kushalnagar Rural Police Station regarding his wife's disappearance.

Around the same time, a skeleton was found within the Bettadarapura police station limits. A year later, Bettadarapura police arrested Suresh, alleging that he had killed his wife over an illicit affair. A case was registered against him."

The police had sent the skeleton for a DNA test along with blood samples from Mallige's mother.

"Even before the DNA report came, the police filed the final charge sheet in court. Later, though he got bail, the DNA test report that eventually came showed a mismatch," he said.

> **"The court had summoned the SP and the investigating officers in the case, but they had no answers to offer. It has now directed the SP to file a complete report on the lapses**

When a discharge application was filed citing the DNA mismatch, the court did not accept it and asked for witness examination, including that of Mallige's mother and villagers.

"Everyone deposed before the court that she was alive and had eloped with someone. The court questioned the Kushalnagar and Bettadarapura police about the loopholes in the charge sheet, but they defended their investigation and maintained that the skeleton belonged to Mallige and that Suresh had murdered her," the advocate said.

Meanwhile, on April 1, Mallige was found at a hotel in Madikeri, having a meal with a man. She was spotted by Suresh's friend, who is also a witness named in the charge sheet.

She was taken to the Madikeri police station, following which an "advancement application" was filed before the district judge's court.

"The court asked police to produce her immediately. She was then presented in court. When questioned, she admitted to eloping and marrying another man. She said she was unaware of what had happened to Suresh. She had been living in a village named Shettyhalli, just 25–30 km from Madikeri, but police made no effort to trace her," he added.

Calling this a very serious and rare case, the advocate said the key questions before the court now are: whose skeleton was it, and why did the police file a false charge sheet? "The court had summoned the SP and the investigating officers, but they had no answers to offer." **PTI**

Bottoms up in Chikka Bommasandra

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

even with plastic glasses and water so that they can have alcohol right there. He said the residents have no problems if the MRP outlet sells liquor to the public.

"But the drunk men find the footpath or road a convenient spot for them to drink as the MRP outlet is providing them with glasses and water. If not, they would be forced to go to their homes to booze. There is a government school and two kindergarten schools in the vicinity," he said.

Expressing concern over the menace, Neha Syed, a resident of the area, said that women hesitate to go out in the evening as they feel it is not safe for them. "One can see groups of people on the footpath in the evening. There are incidents of drunkards quarrelling among themselves," Neha said.

Demanding the authorities concerned fix this problem, Babu Reddy, a resident of 16th A Cross, said that he had complained to the police and the BBMP but they did nothing to break up the illegal party.

"The authorities failed to evict petty shops that sell liquor illegally. One can see empty liquor bottles and plastic glasses on the footpath. The drunkards continue to create nuisance without any restrictions and it has become a routine for residents to cope with this," Reddy said.

When informed, Ravi Shankar, Deputy Superintendent, Excise Department, told BM that he has received a complaint from the residents on petty shops selling liquor illegally. "I will send my subordinates to Chikka Bommasandra. I will also keep a vigil on those petty shops allegedly selling liquor illegally," the Deputy Superintendent said.

Everybody will feel the heat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

conditions such as hypertension and diabetes that exacerbate the health impacts of heatwaves. The city also has a large number of pedestrians, which increases the exposure to extreme heat," said Vidhatri Thakkar, analyst working in the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector at CSTEP.

The health risk due to heatwaves is already evident and is expected to intensify with rising temperatures and increasing heat wave frequency.

Vulnerable populations, especially those with pre-existing conditions and the informal workforce that predominantly works outdoors, are already experiencing heightened impacts. In the absence of localised targeted interventions for the identified vulnerable populations, these impacts will worsen in the coming decades.

While Bengaluru faces some degree of health risk due to climate-change induced heatwave, the city lacks adequate medical infrastructure to meet the needs of its population and to handle increasing risks of heat-related illnesses, say experts.

"With only 75 medical facilities in the urban region (Economic Survey 2022–2023), improving healthcare accessibility for vulnerable populations is crucial. As the Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change (2024–2025) also highlights, there is a need to update the Heat Health Action Plan, enhance hospital preparedness, strengthen surveillance, and conduct capacity-building initiatives for different stakeholders," added Thakkar.

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7-5-2025 ರಿಂದ 5 ದಿನಗಳು
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9611082432/9449652555/8123099913

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Smt. Pratibha Nilesh Panchal, W/o. Sri Nilesh Ramniklal Panchal, R/o No.201, 2nd Floor, Surya Residency, Kenchanahalli, BHEL Layout, Bengaluru - 560098 I have changed my name from Pratibha to Pratibha Nilesh Panchal vide affidavit no IN-KA9908904523408X dated 03.04.2025 for all the purpose

I, Hemant Kumar Pandey S/O, Uday Narayan Pandey R/o #3, Muniramaiah Layout, Near Old Age Home, Horamavu, Banaswadi, Bangalore 560043. have changed my name to Hemant Pandey for all purposes.

I Atijamma w/o Abdul Rahiman R/o No.3-139/9, Hosakdu House, Kemral, Mangaluru 574146 present camp at Bengaluru have changed my name to Athijamma, Affidavit Dt.04/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Nikhil Kumar S/O, Rajesh Kumar Choudhary R/o 1303 Turquoise, Hm World City Apartment, Jp Nagar 9th Phase, Anjanapura, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560062 have changed my name to Nikhil Kumar Choudhary

I, Sanjay Vijaya Kumar S/o Vijay Kumar Muniyappa R/o No.762, 1st main, Kalyan Cooperative Society Lyt, Bengaluru 560056 have changed my name to Sanjay Vijay Kumar Affidavit Dt.04/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, VIDISHA J W/o Hardik Jain aged about 27 years R/At No.8/2, Mangal Prem Villa, Saraswathi Ammal Road, Maruti Sevanagar, B'luru-560033 have changed my name to VIDISHA JAIN vide affidavit dtd:03/04/2025 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru

I Saurabh S/o Santhosh Kumar R/o Ne 401, Shriram Surabhi Apartment, Mallasandra,opp Kssem Collage, Kanakapura Road, Vajarahalli Bengaluru 560062. have changed my name to Saurabh Santosh for all purposes

I Manjunath Madiwalar S/O, Tippanna Madiwalar R/o No 58 Sarvarajyagam 1st Floor 3rd Cross Vasthu, Layout Kudlu, Bengaluru - 410210 have changed my name to Manjunath Tippanna Madiwalar.

I, Ravi Kumar S/O, Jayarama As R/o # 179/1a , 8th Main, Sadanandanagar, Ngef Layout, Indiranagar Bengaluru 560038. have changed my name to Ravikumar Shantharam for all purposes.

I, Prathipa Rama Gowda R/o 366/1, 3rd cross, Daadys roost, Kammasandra Vill, Bengaluru 560100 have changed my name to Prathip Ramu Gowda Affidavit Dt.04/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Raksha M Bhat D/o Muralikrishna Doddamane Ramachandrarao R/o Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru has changed my name from Raksha Muralikrishna to Raksha M Bhat

I Ruthu M Bhat D/o Muralikrishna Doddamane Ramachandrarao R/o Kumarapark West, Bengaluru has changed my name from Ruthu Muralikrishna to Ruthu M Bhat

I, Vihaa Surendra Reddy D/O, Surendra S Reddy R/o 331,18th G Main , 6th A Cross , 6th Block Koramangala,Bengaluru 560 095 have changed my name to Vihaa Reddy for all purposes

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SHOPPING MART

Grand Flea Market Presents
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ಸವ
Bengaluru Utsava
(Art, Craft, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition)
Date: 4th April to 20th April 2025
Timing: 10:30 AM - 7:00 PM
Venue:
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
(7 Galleries and Lawn Area)
Near Shivananda Circle, Kumara Krupa Road
Bengaluru - 560 001.
17 Days Exhibition Entry Free
Contact: 6364685716 / 9036658774
70+ Shopping Stalls | 50+ Craftsman | Entry Free

'Bill imposes arbitrary restrictions on Waqf properties'

Congress, AIMIM leaders move SC against Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Members of SDPI , Muslim organisations protest against the recently passed Waqf Amendment Bill at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Friday

Congress MP Mohammad Jawed and AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday challenged the validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the Supreme Court, saying it violated the constitutional provisions.

Jawed's plea alleged the bill imposed "arbitrary restrictions" on Waqf properties and their management, undermining the religious autonomy of the Muslim community.

The petition, filed through advocate Anas Tanwir, said the proposed law discriminated against the Muslim community by "imposing restrictions that are not present in the governance of other religious endowments".

The bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it. It was passed in the Lok Sabha early April 3 with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it.

Jawed, a Lok Sabha MP from Kishanganj in Bihar, was a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the bill and has alleged in his plea that the bill "introduces restrictions on the creation of Waqfs based on the duration of one's religious practice".

"Such a limitation is unfounded in Islamic law, custom or precedent and infringes upon the fundamental right to profess and practice religion under Article 25," it said.

In his separate plea, Owaisi said the bill takes away from Waqfs various protections which were accorded to Waqfs and Hindu, Jain, and Sikh religious and charitable endowments alike.

Owaisi's plea, filed by advocate Lzafeer Ahmad, said, "This diminishing of the protection given to Waqfs while retaining them for religious and charitable endowments of other religions constitutes hostile discrimination against Muslims and is violative of Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution, which prohibit discrimination on the grounds of religion."

The plea argued the amendments "irreversibly dilute" the statutory protections afforded to Waqfs and their regulatory framework while giving undue advantage to other stakeholders and interest groups, undermining years of progress and pushing back Waqf management by several decades.

"Appointing non-Muslims on the Central Waqf Council and the State Waqf Boards disturbs this delicate constitutional balance and tilts it to the detriment of the right of Muslims as a religious group to remain in control of their Waqf properties," Owaisi said.

—PTI

AROUNDTHEWORLD

Trump tariffs: China hits back

China hit back with a stiff import tax on U.S. goods as countries and industries around the world weighed their responses to President Donald Trump's latest tariff hikes that are roiling global trade and world markets.

China on Friday took the retaliation route by imposing a 34% tariff beginning April 10 on the imports of all U.S. products, matching the added 34% imposed on Wednesday by Trump on Chinese imports along with increased tariffs on other countries and major trading partners. Trump was swift to criticise Beijing's move. "China played it wrong, they panicked -- the one things they cannot afford to do," he wrote in a social media post, adding: "My policies will never change. This is a great time to get rich."

Countries were taking different approaches as they sought a way to deal with the potential disruption to trade and supply chains. Taiwan's president promised to provide support to industries most vulnerable to the 32% tariffs Trump ordered in his "Liberation Day" reciprocal tariffs announcement.

Vietnam, where the US is a major trade partner, said its deputy prime minister would visit the U.S. for talks on trade..

ANI

Bidding war for TikTok

Marketing platform AppLovin said on Thursday it has submitted a bid for TikTok assets outside of China, ahead of the April 5 deadline set by the U.S. President Donald Trump to find a non-Chinese buyer for the short video app.

AppLovin said in a regulatory filing that its proposal for TikTok is preliminary and there can be no assurance that a transaction will proceed. Bidders for the short video social media company are piling up, as the weekend deadline for TikTok to find a buyer approaches.

"The addition of TikTok could accelerate AppLovin's transition into a global advertising powerhouse, but regulatory and geopolitical complexities remain a critical variable for investors," said Michael Ashley Schulman, chief investment officer at Running Point Capital.

Amazon and, separately, a consortium led by OnlyFans founder Tim Stokely are the latest to throw their hats into the ring for TikTok.

Reuters

CLOSERHOME

Woman gangraped in front of her kids

A woman was allegedly gang raped in front of her two sons in a private bus in Davanagere district. The police have arrested three accused rapists in connection with the case.

According to sources, the victim was returning home with her children on a bus after visiting the famous religious centre Uchangidurga temple, located in Harapanahalli in the Davanagere district.

The driver, conductor, and helper of the bus gang raped her near Channapura village, which is close to Davanagere city.

It is alleged that the local police tried to hush up the case, and action was only initiated after the intervention of the Vijayanagar SP, Shrihari Babu B.L.

Preliminary information indicates that the victim, hailing from the Vijayanagar district, had come to visit and attend a religious fair at the famous Ucchangidurga temple with her two children on March 31. She got late and took the last bus towards Davanagere city from Ucchangidurga.

IANS

Wiki 'must remove defamatory content'

The operator of Wikipedia has been ordered to remove statements deemed defamatory by an Indian court from the page of a domestic news agency it hosts, the latest such directive to the popular online encyclopedia.

The Wikimedia Foundation is the second major tech platform, following X, formerly Twitter, to become embroiled in recent years in court battles over content takedown orders in India.

Last year the agency, ANI, sued Wikimedia for defamation in the Delhi High Court, citing a Wikipedia description that it faced criticism for being a government "propaganda tool" and sought removal of such statements.

In an order on Thursday, the court said, "The impugned statements are... defamatory and tarnish the professional reputation of" ANI, and should be removed.

The foundation did not respond to a request for comment .

Reuters

Startup founders react to Goyal remark

Several Indian entrepreneurs on Friday rallied in unison after Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal questioned the Indian startup ecosystem's value and innovation proposition, as prominent names like Zepto CEO Aadit Palicha and Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu voiced their opinion on the issue that has stirred a debate in the startup circles.

Palicha – one of the most recognised faces in the startup circles and the cofounder of Zepto – cited the quick commerce company's contribution to jobs and FDI, and termed it a "miracle in Indian innovation".

He underscored the role played by consumer internet companies in pushing technology-led innovation.

The young founder argued that the startup ecosystem, government, and owners of large pools of Indian capital need to actively support the creation of "local champions" and "not pull down the teams that are trying hard to get there".

Zoho's Vembu saw the minister's call as a challenge to engineers and technologists and not as pointing fingers.

PTI

THE FUNNIEST WEDDING AFTER YOURS!
Ashvin Gidwani's
AGP WORLD
BLAME IT ON BOLLYWOOD
SCAN TO BOOK
Written & Directed by Bharat Dabholkar
TODAY | PCPA, BENGALURU @ 7:30 PM
FOR CORPORATES & BULK BOOKINGS:
+91 91524 33433 | enquiries@agpworld.com

HEALTH TIP: Placing something warm like a heating pad on your lower belly can relax the muscles and lessen period pain

On hot days, wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing to avoid rashes and allergies

BangaloreMirror | 12
Saturday, April 5, 2025
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HAPPY HORMONES

Hormone therapy may cut cardiovascular risk in younger menopausal women

Menopause can have profound effects on heart health, yet many people are unaware of this important connection.

The hormonal shifts occurring during menopause mark the end of a woman's reproductive years and contribute to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, the most common cause of death among women globally. As estrogen levels drop, changes in cholesterol, blood pressure, inflammation and fat distribution can lead to plaque buildup in blood vessels, which is a major cause of heart disease.

Hormone therapy has long been prescribed to relieve bothersome menopausal symptoms, but research published in 2002 and 2004 raised concerns about its safety, especially regarding cardiovascular health. Those findings led to years of confusion and debate. Although hormone therapy was also previously prescribed to prevent chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, medical guidelines today no longer recommend it for this purpose based on this prior research.

As a cardiologist studying the prevention of heart disease in menopausal women, I investigate how hormone changes affect heart health and how treatments can be improved to lower cardiovascular disease risk. As research continues to shed light on menopause and heart health, it is becoming increasingly clear that hormone therapy used to treat menopausal symptoms in younger, healthy women is not only safe for the heart but may even offer some cardiovascular benefits.

The estrogen-cardiovascular link explained

Menopause, defined as 12 consecutive months without a menstrual period, marks the end of a woman's reproductive years and typically occurs between ages 45 to 55. The transition leading to menopause, known as perimenopause, can last several years and is characterised by fluctuating levels of hormones, including estrogen and progesterone. These hormonal changes often cause symptoms such as hot flashes, night sweats and sleep disturbances.

What's less widely known is that menopause and lack of estrogen also drive changes to the heart and blood vessels. Estrogen has protective effects on the cardiovascular system, and its decline can lead to increased blood vessel stiffness, resulting in high blood pressure, higher cholesterol levels, more inflammation, and shifts in fat deposition, which lead to a greater risk of heart disease.

One reason for this is that estrogen helps keep blood vessels flexible and supports the production of nitric oxide, a molecule that allows vessels to relax and maintain healthy blood flow. Estrogen also influences how the body processes cholesterol, helping to make changes to cholesterol to reduce plaque buildup in artery walls. When estrogen levels drop during menopause, these protective factors diminish, making arteries more susceptible to stiffening, plaque buildup and inflammation. These biological processes raise the risk of long-term cardiovascular disease.

Hormone therapy's rocky history

Hormone therapy using estrogen alone or a combination of estrogen and progestin, a synthetic derivative of progesterone, restores estrogen levels and effectively treats menopausal symptoms. It comes with some risks, though, which depend on factors such as a woman's age, time since menopause began and overall health.

The medical community's view on hormone therapy has shifted dramatically over the years. In the 1970s, hormone therapy was widely promoted as a fountain of youth and was prescribed commonly to prevent age-related chronic diseases such as heart attack and stroke.

Then, in the early 2000s, the Women's Health Initiative, one of the largest clinical trials testing oral hormone therapy in women, found an increased risk of stroke and breast cancer in those who used hormone therapy. Doctors abruptly stopped prescribing it, and medical guidelines shifted their recommendations, saying the treatment had more risks than benefits.

However, additional analyses of data from the Women's Health Initiative along with results from further studies pointed researchers to a theory called the timing hypothesis, which suggests that the risks and benefits of hormone therapy depend on when treatment begins.

According to the timing hypothesis, hormone therapy may lower the risk of heart disease in menopausal women who start it before age 60 and within 10 years of menopause onset, and who are otherwise in good health. Women who begin hormone therapy much later – after age 60 or more than 10 years after menopause onset – may instead face increased cardiovascular risks.

A personalised approach to treating menopause

My research supports this idea. In a 2019 study, my colleagues and I analyzed data from 31 clinical trials of women who started hormone therapy at different ages, and we found that women under 60 who used hormone therapy tend to live longer and are less likely to die from heart disease. However, our study did find an increased risk in blood clots and stroke with hormone therapy. This risk was present in menopausal women under 60 years old and continuously increased as women got older.

Additionally, research has shown that different methods of taking hormone therapy may affect its impact on cardiovascular health. For example, using estrogen patches worn on the skin may have a lower risk of blood clots compared with hormone therapy taken as a pill.

This is due to a phenomenon called first pass metabolism. Hormone therapy taken by mouth is processed by the liver before entering the bloodstream. The liver produces clotting factors, which raises the risk of blood clots. In contrast, estrogen patches deliver the medication into the bloodstream, bypassing the liver, and do not increase this risk.

Overall, we found that women who took oral hormone therapy tended to have lower cholesterol levels, and this effect persisted over many years. For healthy younger women who are within 10 years of menopause onset, hormone therapy is safe from a cardiovascular standpoint and may even provide benefit.

However, hormone therapy is still not recommended for women with existing heart disease, history of blood clots, prior stroke, gallbladder disease or certain types of cancers.

Medical experts now recognize that blanket recommendations for or against hormone therapy are not appropriate. Instead, treatment decisions should be individualized, considering factors such as age, time since menopause began and overall health.

If you are considering hormone therapy, discussing risks and benefits with your health care provider is vital.

Here are questions to consider asking your health care provider:

- Am I a good candidate for hormone therapy based on my health history?
- What are the risks and benefits of starting hormone therapy at my age?
- What type of hormone therapy, such as pills, patches or gel, is safest and most effective for me?
- How long should I stay on hormone therapy?

(Matthew Nudy, Penn State, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Antibiotic overuse

Complication risk

Younger people are being increasingly prescribed antibiotics without proper assessment of complication risk, finds a study, warning that this may potentially lead to resistance.

The study, led by epidemiologists at the University of Manchester, UK, showed that doctors are prescribing antibiotics for tens of thousands of patients with infections, with little or no consideration of prognosis and the risk of the infection worsening.

Young or old?

The study based on an analysis of 15.7 million patient records, revealed that the most elderly patients in the sample were 31 per cent less likely than the youngest patients to receive an antibiotic for upper respiratory infections.

This means "many younger people are being prescribed antibiotics, even though they are often fit enough to recover without them, potentially leading to resistance," said the team in the paper, published in the prestigious Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Many older people may not be able to deal with infections without antibiotics are not receiving them, with the potential of complications and hospital admissions.

Patients with combinations of diseases were 7 per cent less likely than people without major health problems to receive an antibiotic for upper respiratory infections.

Issues with this

"Antibiotics are effective in treating bacterial infections, but they carry the risks of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and loss of effectiveness when used inappropriately. That is why AMR to antibiotics has been recognised as one of the biggest threats to global public health," said lead author Professor Tjeerd van Staa from The University of Manchester.

"The study finds that antibiotics for common infections are commonly not prescribed according to complication risk and that suggests there is plenty of scope to do more on reducing antibiotic prescribing," van Staa added. —IANS

 # Tribute to Val
Tom Cruise opened his highly anticipated CinemaCon appearance on Thursday with a moving tribute to his "Top Gun" co-star, Val Kilmer, who died Tuesday in Los Angeles

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Inspired by Appu

One more movie joins the list of films made based on Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar's ideals and personality. Puneeth Nivasa is directed by Nagendra Prasad, who worked as an assistant for some directors, including the late Puttanna Kanagal. S Mohan is bankrolling the movie under the Sri Panchami Cini Creations banner. Its trailer was unveiled by Green House Vasu, a well-wisher of Dr Rajkumar's family.

"The trailer of the movie is very interesting. I think the director wants to convey that an ordinary person can become somebody in society with perseverance, hard work and dedication," Vasu said.

Nagendra Prasad said Puneeth Nivasa is producer S Mohan's dream project. "The movie is about Mallu, a hard-core fan of Puneeth Rajkumar. He comes to Bengaluru to make a movie. The movie is about Mallu realises his dream," the director said.

25-day wonder

The team of Interval is excited about the successful screening of the film for 25 days. They consider this a big success as not many Kannada movies are being screened for more than one week.

Most of the cast and crew of Interval are software engineers. The movie is about three friends who have the same name and their problems while pursuing engineering. The movie highlights that everyone comes to a point in life where they need an interval (pause).

Director Pawan Wadeyar was the chief guest at the function. Speaking after distributing mementos to the cast and crew of the movie, Wadeyar said he heard a lot about the movie Interval. "This movie is made by software engineers. The movie's team has succeeded in marketing the movie. Nowadays, a movie successfully screened for 25 days is considered a milestone. This movie was set against the backdrop of a college. My movie Googly was also set against the backdrop of a college. I wish all the best to the team. I want to appeal to movie-goers to give priority to movies made by newcomers," Wadeyar said.

Bharath Varsha said the movie's team had the blessings of Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar.

QUIP TAKE

When Karisma has the right answers to wrong questions

Karisma Kapoor broke many stereotypes as before she joined the industry, the girls of the Kapoor family weren't allowed to join movies. She was a game-changer in that sense and thus, that also made things easy for her sister Kareena Kapoor. Not only did Karisma join movies, she also wore a swimsuit in her debut film itself. However, a post going viral on Reddit suggests that Rishi Kapoor wasn't happy with niece Karisma wearing a swimsuit in her debut movie 'Prem Qaidi'. She was asked about it in an interview and here's what she had to say.

Karisma said in a throwback interview with Stardust, according to a post on Reddit, "When people saw Prem Qaidi' and came out of the theatre, nobody remembered the swimming costume. Everyone was only talking of my performance in the film. To tell you the truth, what matters most to me is what my parents feel and think. If they didn't have any objections, why should anyone else have? What did people want me to do? Wear a saree and jump into the pool? How stupid. And anyway, what's wrong in wearing a swimsuit? Don't other normal teenagers wear it?"

During this interview, she also addressed reports of her co-star Harish being upset with her because she hogged all the limelight. She reacted, "The producer of Prem Qaidi, D Rama Naidu, himself said that Karisma Kapoor was the hero and the heroine of Prem Qaidi. Is it my fault if he said that? Is it my fault that I got all the credit? Prem Qaidi is a result of a lot of hard team work. Why should Harish be upset? If I've been appreciated more, what can I do? Yes, I said Prem Qaidi was a hit because of me. But that was in a light moment. Also, everyone else in the industry was telling me that. So what's wrong?"

Karisma went on to star in many hit movies after 'Prem Qaidi' and became one of the top actresses of the 90s.

—ETimes

Condolences pour in as Manoj Kumar dies at 87

As condolences pour in for legendary actor and filmmaker Manoj Kumar, who passed away early on Friday, Bollywood superstars Salman Khan and Aamir Khan have also expressed grief over his demise.

Taking to his X account on Friday, Salman, while calling Kumar a "true legend," wrote, "Manoj Kumar Ji... a true legend. Thank you for the unforgettable films and memories..."

Aamir Khan, in a statement shared by his team, said, "Manoj Kumar was not just an actor and filmmaker; he was an institution. I have learned so much from watching his films. His films often focused on important social themes, which brought him closer to the common man. My heartfelt condolences to his family." Earlier in the day, Raveena Tandon, while speaking to ANI, shared how much she admired Kumar and called him a "genius" who "was ahead of his time."

Singer Nitin Mukesh also spoke fondly about his memories of the legendary actor who passed away at the age of 87 early this morning. He shared that Kumar was one of the first people to support him when he began his career. "...When I had just started working, it was Manoj Kumar Sahab who called my mother...," Nitin Mukesh told ANI.

Leaders from across the political spectrum, including PM Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, also shared tributes, praising his contributions to cinema and his ability to instill national pride through his work.

—ANI

For family audiences

Nimbiya Banada Myaga – Page 1
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Ashok Kadaba
- **ACTORS** Shanmukha Govindaraj, Padma Vasanthi, Tanushree SB, Sunaad Raj, Sangeetha Anil, and Sandeep Malani
- **Duration** 137 minutes
- **Certification** U

Director Ashok Kadaba deserves a pat on the back for handling the megaphone with aplomb. The selection of locations for this movie is good. The lush scenery of Chikkamagalur and surrounding areas is a visual treat.

However, the script looks incongruous.

The movie begins with two people in Bengaluru discussing about taking care of an infant from Bengadi. The movie is about a couple - Raghu (Sunaad Raj) and Varalakshmi (Sangeetha Anil). They have a coffee estate and a lot of money but no children. Varalakshmi asks her sister Venkata Lakshmi to marry her husband Raghu. After a few days, Varalakshmi gives birth to a baby boy. Venkata Lakshmi wants to take revenge against Varalakshmi. Meanwhile, Raghu gets killed by unknown people. A well-wisher advises Varalakshmi to send her son to Bengaluru. After 25 years Achchu (Shanmukha Govindaraj) returns to Bengadi to meet his mother Varalakshmi. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Achchu.

Shanmukha Govindaraj debuted as a hero in Sandalwood with this movie. His choice of role is praiseworthy and he has tried his best to showcase his acting skills. His dialogue delivery is good but he has to improve his acting skills further. Tanushree also makes debut as a heroine with this movie. Sunaad Raj, who makes a comeback after a long gap, provides good support. Sangeetha Anil, as a loving wife and a concerned mother, has acted well. Padma Vasanthi and Sandeep Malani provide good support. At the end, the director indicates that there may be a sequel to this movie.

It is worth a watch for families.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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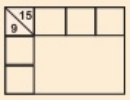
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

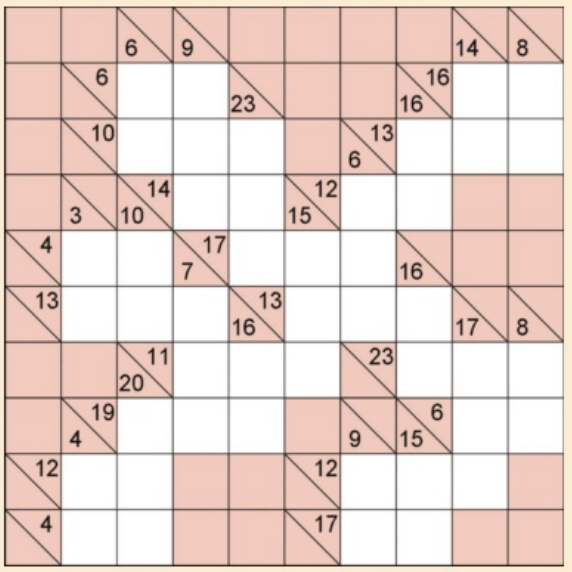
$2\sqrt{2} / 2\sqrt{2} = ?$

Kakuro

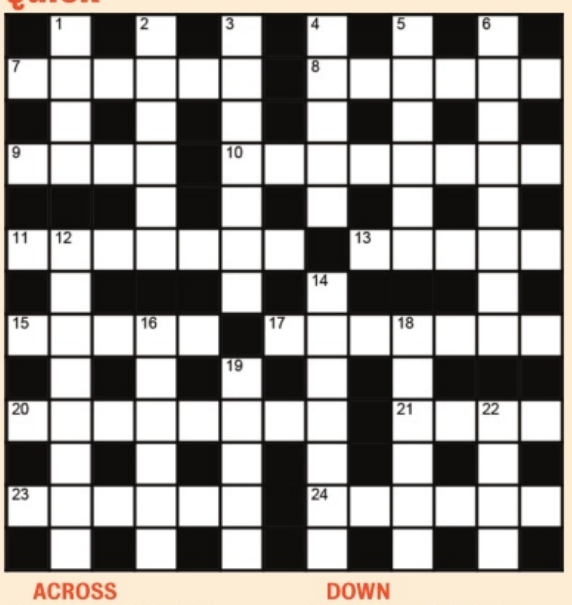
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Port in SW Russia (6)
8 Sticking points (6)
9 Cooped up (4)
10 Great or cataclysmic change? (8)
11 US civil officer (7)
13 On the move (5)
15 Nice surprise (5)
17 Makes a bid for (7)
20 Sufficient and enough (8)
21 Seeds of fruit (4)
23 Ill-advised (6)
24 Nervous or anxious (6)

DOWN

1 Collection of rules (4)
2 Declares (6)
3 Bangalore's famous food street (2,5)
4 Attractive–colloquially speaking (5)
5 Tries or attempts (6)
6 Edible jelly (8)
12 Scraping off, injuring by rubbing (8)
14 Den (7)
16 Clear from a charge (6)
18 Imitated (6)
19 Bluffed, counterfeited or shammed (5)
22 Irksome one (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS N

VY WUYHVZ YE TWX NVEYGR-NUNVZ RWV QYTJN W MGYATNU ZFWZ IYNQ AWRO ZY ZFN EWUKTD.

Linemaro

Did you swallow a magnet? I can't resist your pull

Mindchow

You might be poor, your shoes might be broken, but your mind is a palace

Joke of the day

The sergeant-major growled at the young soldier, "I didn't see you at camouflage training this morning." "Thank you very much, sir."

Loop

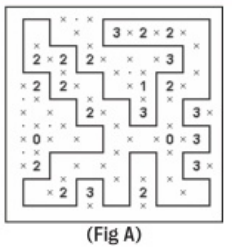
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

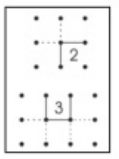
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

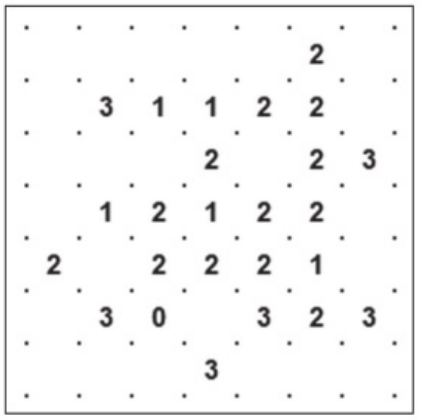
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

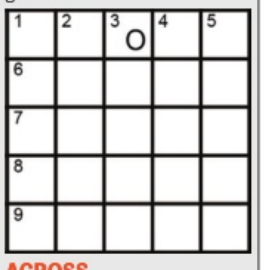


Strikeout

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Or sea; 6 C came;
7 Cutis; 8 Taste;
9 Sad Al

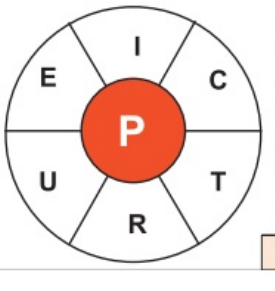
DOWN

1 Ma sis; 2 Caret;
3 Lacto; 4 Us act;
5 Aedes

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

8					6			
	5	2	8			3	4	
		3	4	1		7		
5				4	1			
3								1
			5	2				8
		5		7	9	1		
	3	7			4	9	6	
			6					7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 1
3 6 7 9

Medium = 30
2 5 7 9

Hard = 43
1 5 6 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

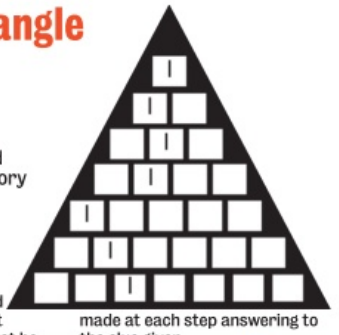
Differences: 1. Fingers are not showing. 2. Man is standing straighter. 3. File cabinet handle is lower. 4. Collar is missing. 5. Tie is wider. 6. Foot is moved.

Riddler

Four sisters, Sara, Ophelia, Nora, and Dawn, were each born in a different one of the months September, October, November, and December. "This is terrible," said Ophelia one day. "None of us have an initial that matches the initial of her birth month." "I don't mind at all," replied the girl who was born in September. "That's easy for you to say," said Nora. "It would at least be cool if the initial of my birth month was a vowel, but no." In which month was each girl born?

Alpha triangle

1 Egoistic letter
2 Not out
3 Plating material
4 A liquid measure
5 Useless
6 Playwright Harold
7 Computer accessory

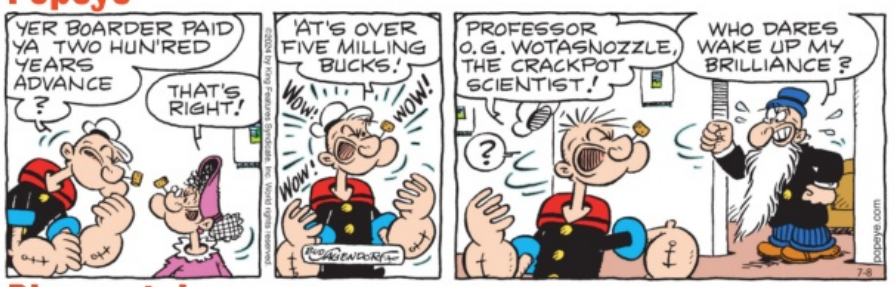


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


YER BOARDER PAID YA TWO HUN'RED YEARS ADVANCE ?
THAT'S RIGHT!
'AT'S OVER FIVE MILLING BUCKS!
WOW!
PROFESSOR O.G. WOTASNOZZLE, THE CRACKPOT SCIENTIST!
WHO DARES WAKE UP MY BRILLIANCE ?
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

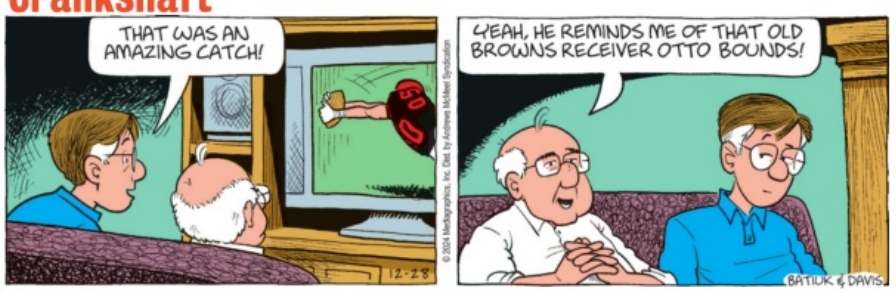
I love what you've done with your heir.
KING 1
KING 2
BIZARRO.COM
©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS Dist. by King Features
Wayno & Piraro 12-28-24

Diamond Lil

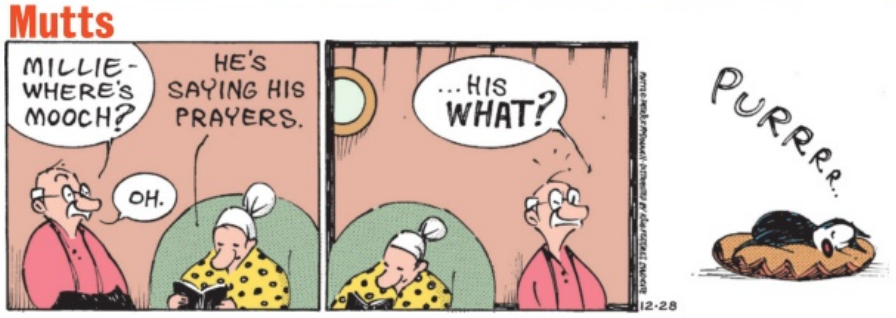
Hart of the city

GOT ANY IDEAS FOR HOW YOU WANT TO CELEBRATE SOLVING A LOCAL CRIME?
I DO.
KNOCK KNOCK
I'M HEART. I'M THE ONE WHO CALLED THE POLICE. UM... MERRY CHRISTMAS?
I'M CARL! WANNA COME IN FOR DINNER?
SURE!

Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
A slow start may leave you feeling dull and unmotivated, impacting work efficiency. However, by late afternoon, blessings from elders will help you regain momentum. Pay close attention to your child's health and be cautious with tough financial decisions. While you may be in a strong position against rivals, investors should tread carefully. Stomach-related issues may arise, so monitor your diet.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Work will bring satisfaction, and important decisions made by the end of the day may benefit your future. A short trip is likely. Your subordinates will be cooperative, and positive news regarding a sibling's success may brighten your day. Legal matters may turn in your favour, and students will remain focused on their goals.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Your communication skills will be your greatest asset, helping you excel professionally. A polite and approachable attitude will smoothen project execution. Lovebirds will have meaningful conversations, strengthening their relationship.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
The moon's blessings will bring positive energy, leading to financial gains through new partnerships. Enthusiasm and hard work will improve financial stability. Your self-respect will protect you from negative influences.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Social gatherings and reconnecting with old friends will keep you engaged. Fresh ideas may bring unexpected material gains to your business ventures. Children may share good academic news. Lovebirds will cherish quality time together.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
A favourable moon may turn small investments into significant profits. Your efficiency at work will increase, and success may come with minimal effort. Positive outcomes in legal matters are likely. You will maintain control over your rivals.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Hard work will pay off, bringing success even from small efforts. Previous investments may yield good profits, and both your professional and personal life will thrive. Social prestige may rise, and innovative business ideas may prove beneficial. Disputes with your spouse will likely be resolved.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You will feel more in control today, and situations will seem manageable. Networking will support professional growth, and overseas travel may be in the cards. Domestic harmony and love life will improve. Creativity will inspire you to buy artistic items for your home. A movie or an outing with friends and family may be on the agenda.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Overworking may leave you feeling tired and careless. Avoid making impulsive decisions. If planning an adventure trip, consider postponing it. Past investments may not yield expected results. Students must put in extra effort. Health concerns, including back pain, nervous system issues, or skin-related problems, require attention. Prioritize self-care.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Creativity will be high, making it a great time for home renovations. Purchasing new items for your home or office may enhance your social status. Domestic life will be peaceful, and disputes with friends, co-workers, and partners may be resolved. Positive news regarding legal matters may arrive.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A sense of contentment will prevail as you successfully balance earnings and expenditures, strengthening financial stability. Networking will support your plans, and siblings or subordinates will be helpful. A visit to elders or a religious place may bring inner peace.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Lack of sleep may cause dullness and scattered thoughts, affecting your focus. A visit to a religious place may provide solace. By evening, blessings from elders may help you recognise mistakes and create a better plan for the days ahead. Pay close attention to your parents' health today.

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Sanjana, Bengaluru

Aaron, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√2/√2 = 2·1/2 /2·1/2 = 2·1/2-1/2 = 2·0 = 1

QUOTE UNCODE
No amount of law enforcement can solve a problem that goes back to the family.

BULL'S EYE
crept, epic, erupt, pert, PICTURE, pier, price, puce, pure, ripe, trip, tripe

FAST FIVE

S	A	L	A	D
S	T	A	T	E
I	C	T	U	S
M	E	C	C	A
A	R	O	S	E

STRIKE OUT

D	I	C	E		P	E	A		E	R	I	C		
R	O		E		T		E		E	O				
E	L	A	I	N	E		S	E	A	M	A	N		
S	X		O	L	D	E	N		A	G				
S	C	E	N	T	S		A	T	W	I	L	L		
E		D	A	M		P		R	A	N		O		
	C	A	B	A	N	A	S			M				
M	A	R	S	H	A	L		A	S	T	I	R		
		B			M		H			N				
T	R	E	A	T		P	I	T	C	H	E	S		
		A		C		F		D		O				
A	D	E	O	U	A	T	E		P	I	P	S		

QUICK

		G		T		D		T		D		T		
	U	N	W	I	S	E		U	N	E	A	S	Y	
		I		U		K		O		I		E		
A	D	E	O	U	A	T	E		P	I	P	S		
	A		C		F		D		O					
T	R	E	A	T		P	I	T	C	H	E	S		
		B			M		H			N				
M	A	R	S	H	A	L		A	S	T	I	R		
		E			R		Y			T				
P	E	N	T		U	P	H	E	A	V	A	L		
	D		A		P		S		S		L			
R	O	S	T	O	V		I	S	S	U	E	S		
	C		S		V		D		E		G			

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, In, Tin, Pint, Inept, Pinter, Printer.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 - 9 + 6 - 3 = 1
Medium
9 x 2 + 5 + 7 = 30
Hard
8 x 6 - 5 x 1 = 43

SUDOKU

8	7	4	2	3	6	5	1	9
1	5	2	8	9	7	3	4	6
9	6	3	4	1	5	7	8	2
5	2	8	9	4	1	6	7	3
3	4	9	7	6	8	2	5	1
7	1	6	5	2	3	4	9	8
6	8	5	3	7	9	1	2	4
2	3	7	1	8	4	9	6	5
4	9	1	6	5	2	8	3	7

MENSA PUZZLE
69. Starting at the top and working down, double each number and subtract 5 to give the next number.

RIDDLER
Sara was born in October, Ophelia was born in November, Nora was born in December, and Dawn was born in September.

KAKURO

		4	1	3				
	4	2	9	8	2	1	9	
6	2	1	8	7	2	7	4	2
8	9	6	3	1	7	9	8	6
		2	7	9	3	1	2	
		1	5	3	6	9	7	5
		3	1	2	4	3	9	1
			3	1	2	8	6	4
				2	1	5	7	3

LOOP

		3	×	×	×			
	3	×	2	×	2	3	×	
3	×	2	×	2	×	1	×	2
×	2	×	2	×	1	×	2	×
3	×	1	×	2	×	2	×	3
×	1	×	2	×	2	×	3	
2	×	2	×	1	×	2		
×	0	×	3	×	2	3	×	
3	×	×	×	2	×	1	×	2

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Fuel Type	Petrol	Hybrid (Electric + Petrol)
Turbocharger / Supercharger	Turbocharged	-
Features		
Braking & Traction		
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Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD)	Yes	Yes
Electronic Stability Program (ESP)	Yes	Yes
Hill-start assist control (HAC)	Yes	Yes
Safety		
Overspeed Warning	Yes	Yes
Lane Departure Warning	Yes	Yes
Forward Collision Warning (FCW)	Yes	Yes
Global N Cap Rating - 5 Star	Yes	Yes
Lane Departure Prevention	Yes	Yes
Comfort & Convenience		
Cruise Control	Yes	Yes
Keyless Start/ Button Start	Yes	Yes
Entertainment, Information & Communication		
Android Auto	Yes	Yes
Apple CarPlay	Yes	Yes
Steering-mounted controls	Yes	Yes
GPS Navigation System	Yes	Yes
Wireless Charger	Yes	Yes
Mobile App Features		
Find My Car	Yes	Yes
Check Vehicle Status via App	Yes	Yes
Emergency Call	Yes	Yes
Remote AC: On / Off via App	Yes	Yes
Remote Car Lock/Unlock via App	Yes	Yes
Seats & Upholstery		
Leather upholsteryv	Yes	Yes
Ventilated Front Seats	Yes	Yes

Rear spoiler

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